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## General

Namibia, located in the S part of Africa, is bounded on the N by Angola and Zambia, on the W by the South Atlantic Ocean, on the S and SE by South Africa, and on the E by Botswana.

The coast, about 800 miles long, extends between the mouth of the **Kunene River** (17°14'S., 11°45'E.) and the mouth of the Orange River.

The country consists of three main regions, as follows:

1. The Namib Desert, an extremely arid and desolate region, is 50 to 80 miles wide and stretches along the entire coast.
2. The Central Plateau, which covers about half of the total area, lies E of the Namib Desert. This plateau varies in elevation from 1,000 to 2,000m and consists of rugged mountains, sand-filled valleys, and plains.
3. The Kalahari Desert covers the E, NE, and N regions of the country.

The rainy season lasts from January to March with less showers from September to December.

## Buoyage System

The IALA Buoyage System (Region A) is in effect. See Chart No. 1 for further IALA Buoyage System information.

## Currency

The official unit of currency is the Namibia dollar, consisting of 100 cents. The South African rand is also a legal tender of parity.

## Government



**Flag of Namibia**

Namibia, which gained full independence from South Africa in 1990, is a multi-party republic. The new constitution introduced an independent judiciary and an executive President, who may serve a maximum of two 5-year terms.

The bicameral legislature consists of a 78-member National Assembly (72 of which are elected to 5-year terms and six

appointed to 5-year terms), and a 26-member National Council, composed of two appointed members serving 6-year terms from each of 13 regions. The President is the chief of state and head of government.

The legal system is based on Roman-Dutch law and the 1990 constitution.

The capital is Windhoek.

## Holidays

The following holidays are observed:

New Year's Day	January 1
Public Holiday	January 2
Good Friday	Varies
Easter Monday	Varies
Ascension Day	Varies
Republic Day	May 31
Settler's Day	First Monday in September
Kruger Day	October 10
Day of the Covenant	December 16
Christmas Day	December 25
Boxing Day	December 26

## Industries

The major industries are meat packing, fish processing, dairy products, fertilizer, textiles, metal products, and the mining of copper, lead, zinc, silver, gold, tin, diamonds, and uranium. Diamonds are also recovered from offshore alluvial deposits.

Livestock raising is very important as the water and poor rainfall render agriculture, except in the N and NE parts, almost impossible. Crops include wheat, maize, sunflower seed, and sorghum.

## Languages

The official languages are English, Afrikaans, and German.

## Regulations

Vessels should send their ETA at least 72 hours in advance (excluding Sunday and public holidays) to their port of destination, stating the following information:

1. Vessel length, freeboard, and draft fore and aft.
2. Details on any dangerous cargo.
3. Type and quantity of cargo being landed or loaded.
4. Bunkers and other requirements.
5. Factors affecting the safe entry and/or berthing of the vessel.
6. Is the vessel engaged in towing or salvage? If yes, further details are required.

Vessels should send their ETA to the appropriate Port Control on VHF channel 16 when within 20 miles of their destination.

A continuous listening watch is to be maintained on VHF channel 16 by all vessels anchored within or near the limits of a Namibian port.

## Search and Rescue

Namibian Search and Rescue (NAMSAR) coordinates all search and rescue efforts within Namibian waters and works in close cooperation with the South African Search and Rescue Organization. Inshore rescue craft are stationed at Walvis Bay and Swakopmund.

## Time Zone

The Time Zone description is ALFA (-1). Daylight Savings Time (BRAVO (-2)) is maintained from the beginning of September through the beginning of April of the following year; the exact changeover dates should be obtained from local authorities

### World Time Zone Chart

<http://www.odci.gov/cia/publications/factbook/ref/pdf/802801.pdf>

## U.S. Embassy

The U.S. Embassy is situated at the Ausplan Building, 14 Lossen Street, Windhoek.

The mailing address is Private Bag 12029 Ausspannplatz, Windhoek.

### U. S. Embassy Namibia Home Page

<http://www.usembassy.namib.com>